



# Sen. Eric Johnson

## Senate District 1



Senator Eric Johnson was elected to the Georgia State Senate from the 1<sup>st</sup> District in 1994 after serving in the House of Representatives since 1992. Sen. Johnson is a Republican representing the citizens of Bryan and portions of Chatham and Liberty counties.

Sen. Johnson was elected Senate president pro tempore in 2003 and served for three terms. Prior to holding that position, he served as minority leader for two terms, beginning in 1999.

As president pro tem, Johnson chaired the Administrative Affairs Committee. Sen. Johnson also serves as chairman of the Ethics committee, vice chairman of the Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee. He is also a member of the Finance, Rules, Agriculture and Consumer Affairs and Education and Youth committees.

Sen. Johnson has authored several important pieces of legislation while serving in the Senate. He created a new crime of domestic terrorism and placed it under the death penalty statute; he increased penalties for child abuse, including making it a felony to seriously injure a child; he allowed soldiers stationed overseas to get all property tax filing deadlines extended until they return home and passed an amendment to the Georgia Constitution to protect Georgians' right to hunt and fish.

Johnson also passed the Know Thy Neighbor Act that requires the Board of Pardons and Paroles to set up a system whereby any citizen can obtain a list of parolees. In 1997, he passed the School Safety Act that requires notification of local school systems by Superior Court when a juvenile is convicted of a felony.

Sen. Johnson led the successful effort to pass civil justice reform, brought local jails under the Mutiny in Prison Act so that prisoners who harm a jailer could be charged with a felony, allowed Do Not Resuscitate orders to be portable, mandated periodic re-negotiation of the distribution of the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) between local governments to increase the fairness of property tax roll-backs, and wrote the amendment to the Moment of Silence law to allow student-initiated prayer at school and school events. In addition, he required local law enforcement to pay the cost of the medical exam of rape victims and created the Rape Victims' Bill of Rights.

He received a master's degree in architecture from Tulane University in 1976 and currently is an architect working for North Point Real Estate, a residential and commercial development firm.

Senator Johnson and his wife, Kathryn, are the parents of two children – Righton and Marcus. He and his family attend Savannah Christian Church.

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